

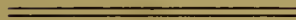
INTEL LIBRARY

E

1925.



Boston Urban District



ANNUAL REPORT

— OF —

The Medical Officer of Health.



BOSTON:

“Guardian” Press, 94, West Street.

1926.

1925.



Boston Urban District



ANNUAL REPORT

— OF —

The Medical Officer of Health.



BOSTON:
"Guardian" Press, 94, West Street,
1926.

The Municipal Borough of Boston.

Offices :—

MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, BOSTON.

Sanitary Committee :

Councillors BAILEY (Chairman), MAWER, Aldermen
PORTER and DAY, Councillors FYSON, LUNN,
PECK, SALTER, TAIT and WING.

Town Clerk :—

EDMUND WAITE, Esq.

Medical Officer of Health :—

DAWSON C. ROBERTSON, M.B., D.P.H. (Camb.).

Sanitary Inspector :—

J. H. EVANS.

BOROUGH OF BOSTON.

Medical Officer's Report for 1925.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the following Report which is a survey of sanitary conditions during the last five years.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,756
Population (1925)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	16,100
Number of inhabited houses (1921)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4,049
Rateable Value	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	£56,903
Sum represented by Penny Rate	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	£218
Amount of out-door Poor Relief	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	£2,628/9/5
Number of Inmates of Poor Law Infirmary	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	89

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

		Total.	M.	F.		
Births	Legitimate	..... 319	152	167	Birth Rate	20.8
„	Illegitimate	..... 17	8	9		
Deaths	.....	..... 249	116	133	Death-rate	15.7
Deaths of women in consequence of childbirth				From sepsis		Nil
				Other Causes		Nil
Deaths of infants under one year of age per 1,000 births :—						
	Legitimate	68.		Illegitimate	176.	
Deaths from Measles	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
„ Whooping Cough	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2

The Birth-rate is somewhat higher than last year and the Death-rate is lower.

The chief causes of death were cancer and cerebral haemorrhage.

Causes of Death in Boston M.B., 1925.

Causes of Death.							M	F
All Causes .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	116	133
1.—Enteric fever .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
2.—Small-pox .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
3.—Measles .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1
4.—Scarlet fever .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1
5.—Whooping Cough .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	
6.—Diphtheria .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....		1
7.—Influenza .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	6
8.—Encephalitis lethargica .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
9.—Meningococcal meningitis .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
10.—Tuberculosis of respiratory system .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6	14
11.—Other tuberculous diseases .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6	
12.—Cancer, malignant disease .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	14	18
13.—Rheumatic fever .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....		2
14.—Diabetes .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....		1
15.—Cerebral haemorrhage, &c. ....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12	13
16.—Heart disease .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6	13
17.—Arterio-sclerosis .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	
18.—Bronchitis .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5	12
19.—Pneumonia (all forms).....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	11	6
20.—Other respiratory diseases .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	2
21.—Ulcer of stomach or duodenum .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	1
22.—Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years) .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....		2
23.—Appendicitis and typhlitis .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	
24.—Cirrhosis of liver .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	
25.—Acute and chronic nephritis .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4	3
26.—Puerperal sepsis .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
27.—Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
28.—Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	6
29.—Suicide .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
30.—Other deaths from violence .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7	2
31.—Other defined diseases.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	27	29
32.—Causes ill-defined or unknown .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	
Special Causes (included above)								
Poliomyelitis .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Polioencephalitis .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	{ Total						10	12
	{ Illegitimate						2	1
Total Births .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	160	176
Legitimate .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	152	167
Illegitimate .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8	9
Population .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	16,100	

General Register Office,
Somerset House,
London, W.C.2.

April, 1926.

Table X.—Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Analysis of Mortality during the year 1925.

(Provisional figures. The rates for England and Wales have been calculated on a population estimated to the middle of 1925, while those for the towns have been calculated on populations estimated to the middle of 1924. The mortality rates refer to the whole population as regards England and Wales, but only to civilians as regards London and the groups of towns.)

	Birth-rate per 1,000 Total Population	Annual Death-rate per 1,000 Population.										Rate per 1,000 Births.		Percentage of Total Deaths.		
		All Causes.	Enteric Fever.	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Violence.	Diarrhoea & Enteritis (under Two years).	Total Deaths under One year.	Causes of Death certi- fied by Registered Medical Practitioners.	Inquest Cases.	Uncertified Causes of Death.	
England and Wales	18.3	12.2	0.01	0.00	0.13	0.03	0.15	0.07	0.35	0.47	8.4	75	92.1	6.9	1.0	
105 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	18.8	12.2	0.01	0.00	0.17	0.03	0.18	0.09	0.30	0.43	10.8	79	92.1	7.3	0.6	
157 Smaller Towns (1921 Adjusted Populations 20,000-50,000)	18.3	11.2	0.01	0.00	0.15	0.02	0.14	0.06	0.31	0.38	7.6	74	93.0	5.9	1.1	
London	18.0	11.7	0.01	0.00	0.08	0.02	0.19	0.11	0.23	0.46	10.6	67	91.1	8.9	0.0	

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

HOSPITALS.

The Fever Hospital is supported by the Council in conjunction with Boston Rural District and Sibsey Rural District. It is situated on the outskirts of the town.

Some years ago a small-pox block was built but, owing to its close proximity to the main hospital, it is useless in that capacity.

During the large influx of scarlet fever cases I used it as an annexe to the hospital, and it proved very useful as such.

In addition, there is a block devoted to Port Sanitary cases. This block is further away from the hospital and I used it as a small-pox hospital when a small-pox case was admitted. It is not at all suited for that purpose. There are no nurses' quarters and the kitchen arrangements are very unsatisfactory. It would be advisable to have it rebuilt or remove it further away from the main hospital.

There are eighteen beds in the hospital, seventeen in the annexe and fourteen in the Port Sanitary block.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Infectious cases have been conveyed to the hospital in a horse-drawn vehicle up to the present. The hospital serves a wide area and the removal of cases has been a long and tedious process. A motor ambulance is now almost completed and it will prove a great boon to everyone concerned.

The ambulance will be stationed at the hospital. The caretaker will act as driver and a nurse will go out to bring in all cases.

Non-infectious cases and accidents are dealt with by the motor ambulance of the St. John Ambulance.

Treatment Centres.

1.—MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRE.

The centre is situated in Bank Street. There are two sessions weekly, Wednesday and Friday, 2 to 4 p.m. Rooms are rented from the Day Nursery and the Centre is provided by the Council.

2.—DAY NURSERY.

This is a private concern and run by a local committee.

3.—SCHOOL CLINIC.

Under the control of the Education Authority and supervised by School Medical Officer.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health—D. C. Robertson, M.B., D.P.H.
(part time).

Sanitary Inspector—J. H. Evans.

Meat Inspector—J. H. Evans.

Health Visitor—Miss Cowper.

Certified Midwife—Nurse Davy.

The work of the Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector has increased enormously during the past five years, particularly the clerical work. It would be advisable that the Sanitary Inspector have the services of a young clerk who had ideas of eventually becoming a sanitary inspector. He could be usefully employed doing clerical work and also a certain amount of outside work, such as disinfections.

Professional nursing in the homes is not carried out by the Authority but by District Nurses.

MIDWIVES. Only one qualified midwife practises in the Area. There are twenty-eight unqualified midwives.

LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

Private Street Works Acts, 1892.

Infectious Disease Prevention Act, 1890.

Public Health Amendment Act, 1890.

“ “ “ “ 1907.

“ “ “ “ 1925.

Byelaws for Slaughterhouses, 1875.

Tents, Vans and Sheds, 1912.

Prevention of Nuisances, 1912.

Drainage of Existing Buildings, 1912.

New Streets and Buildings, 1926.

Common Lodging Houses, 1875.

Regulations for Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops, 1907

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER.

During the past year there has been no shortage of water and the quality, on the whole, has been satisfactory. A constant supply of water has been provided by the Waterworks Company. Complaints have been made from time to time as to the lack of pressure and consequent shortage in houses. This is in process of being obviated by the introduction of mechanical means whereby the pressure is increased during the day. The only certain remedy is the doubling of the mains running from the reservoir to the town.

Two samples were sent to the Analyst and the main point seems to be the presence of *b. coli* in the water.

The question of a permanent increase in the storage capacity at the reservoir and the consequent provision of new reservoirs is still in abeyance.

Register No. 3533.
Report Sent 8th July, 1925.

THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC HEALTH.

Telephone : Museum 766. 37, Russell Square,
 Telegraphic Address : London, W.C.1.
 "Toxicologist, London." 8th July, 1925.

Report from the Bacteriological Laboratories.

EXAMINATION OF A SAMPLE OF WATER.

Name of Sender—Boston Corporation.
 Date Received—3/7/25.
 Particulars on Label—Tap, ground floor, Dr. Rendall's Surgery,
 Church Close, Public Supply.
 The Sample was packed in Ice.

QUANTITATIVE ENUMERATION OF BACTERIA.

On Gelatine Plates, kept for four days at 22° C. 120 colonies per 1 c.c. developed : of these 13 or 15 per cent. liquified gelatine.
 On Agar Plates, kept for 24 hours at 37° C. 10 colonies per 1 c.c. developed.

EXAMINATION FOR SPECIAL BACTERIA.

B. Coli present in 100 c.c.

RESULT OF EXAMINATION.

There is no appreciable change in the water since the examination of the 22nd June, 1925, except there are a few more colonies on both Agar and Gelatine. The presence of B. Coli in 100 c.c. is still unsatisfactory.

WILLIAM E. SMITH, Knt.,
 M.D., D.Sc., F.R.S. Ed.,
Principal.

NOTE.—The above examination has been carried out in conformity with the procedure recommended by the Special Committee of Bacteriologists of The Royal Institute of Public Health on the "Standardisation of Methods for the Bacteriological Examination of Water," Aug. 1920.

Register No. 3195.

Report Sent 22nd June, 1925.

THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC HEALTH.

Telephone : Museum 766.

37, Russell Square,

Telegraphic Address :

London, W.C.1.

"Toxicologist, London."

22nd June, 1925.

Report from the Bacteriological Laboratories.

EXAMINATION OF A SAMPLE OF WATER.

Name of Sender—The Borough of Boston.

Date Received—16/6/25.

Particulars on Label—Tap in the Office of the Medical Officer of Health, Municipal Buildings, Boston,
Direct from Main, Public Supply.

The Sample was packed in ice.

QUANTITATIVE ENUMERATION OF BACTERIA.

On Gelatine Plates kept for four days at 22° C. 3 colonies per 1 c.c. developed : of these none per cent. liquefied gelatine.

On Agar Plates, kept for 24 hours at 37° C. 1 colony per 1 c.c. developed.

EXAMINATION FOR SPECIAL BACTERIA.

B. Coli present in 100 c.c.

RESULT OF EXAMINATION.

The small number of organisms on Agar and Gelatine is a good feature in this sample of water.

The presence of B. Coli in 100 c.c. is, however, unsatisfactory, but in view of the small bacterial count this unfavourable feature can possibly be remedied.

WILLIAM E. SMITH, Knt.,

M.D., D.Sc., F.R.S. Ed.,

Principal.

NOTE.—The above examination has been carried out in conformity with the procedure recommended by the Special Committee of Bacteriologists of The Royal Institute of Public Health on the "Standardization of Methods for the Bacteriological Examination of Water," Aug. 1920.

II.—DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The method of sewage disposal in the Borough is as follows :—

- (a) In the greater part of the West Ward there is a system of ejectors through which the sewage passes and eventually discharges into the River Witham at a point near the boundaries of the Borough and Skirbeck Quarter in the rural area. Other parts of the Ward are connected to sewers which discharge direct into the river.
- (b) In the Bargate Ward most of the drains are connected to the " Bar Ditch " and discharged into the River near the Grand Sluice Bridge and runs through the town by the flow of the tide. The discharge of the Bar Ditch is regulated by sluice doors which are closed two hours before and two hours after high tide.
- (c) Other drains are connected to the Court of Sewers drains which discharge into the Maud Foster Drain which is not a tidal drain. The amount of sewage draining into the Maud Foster Drain is fairly considerable. During the summer months numerous complaints have been made as to the stench arising from the drain and there is no doubt that such a stench does arise, especially in July and August.

The Boston Rural District Council have an equal responsibility, and meetings have taken place between the two Authorities as to what can be done to ameliorate the conditions. It was suggested that sluice gates be put in and the lower part of the drain be thus tidal. This was found to be impracticable for several reasons.

The Witham Commissioners have agreed to flush out the drain as often as they have the water available. Naturally this would not be so often in the summer months and unfortunately is the time most required.

The only sure method of purifying the drain is to remove all sewage by the construction of sewage works. This, at the present time, I fear, is not possible owing to the high cost, but I hope that such a scheme will materialise in the future as a joint scheme of this Council and the Rural District Council.

III.—CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

There are few houses in the town that have not separate conveniences,

The approximate number of each type of closet is as follows :—

Vaults	.....	.....	.....	.....	479
Ash Closets	.....	.....	.....	.....	1692
Slop Closets	.....	.....	.....	.....	1193
Water Closets	.....	.....	.....	.....	918
Total					4282

At the present time there is no definite policy or scheme of conversions, but the following table will show the number of conversions in the last five years :—

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	Total
Ash Closets abolished	3	12	9	8	60	
Privy Vaults abolished	15	4	5	4	7	127
Slop Closets provided	18	15	13	6	38	
Water Closets provided	—	1	1	6	29	127

One of the difficulties to contend with in the wholesale conversion of closets is the fact that the house drains (many of them held to be sewers) were laid to drains which were very shallow and in consequence the drains from the houses have insufficient gradient to carry solids. In many cases the cost of relaying the drains or sewers is more than the actual conversions.

The Sanitary Committee have under consideration a report dealing with the conversion of closets on definite lines. This would mean so many being converted yearly, and in time the vaults and ash closets would be abolished. This would materially improve the sanitation of the town.

In many cases the houses have only the front door, and it means that all the excrement has to be carried through the house. I have had occasion to go into houses while the closets were being emptied and the stench was disgusting.

I strongly advise the Council to seriously take up this question of closet conversion and as soon as possible do away with vaults and ash closets.

IV.—SCAVENGING.

The work of scavenging and refuse disposal is carried out under the Borough Surveyor's Department.

The refuse continues to be "tipped" in any place convenient. This is not satisfactory and when a new dump is started complaints soon follow from nearby residents. This could be obviated by the construction of a dust destructor or crusher.

Various sites have been discussed for the erection of a crusher and I hope that, in the near future, something definite will be decided upon. Such a crusher, situated centrally, would obviate long journeys to cart refuse and there would be a consequent saving in expenses.

Vaults and earth closets are cleaned out by the scavenging departments. As I have mentioned before, this is, very often, a very nauseating process, and I look forward to the day when all the vaults and ash closets will have been abolished and the expenses of refuse removal very materially reduced.

Forty-three movable ash-bins have been provided during the last five years. These have been provided at the request of the Sanitary Inspector and others may have been substituted.

SANITARY INSPECTION.

This has been most efficiently carried out by the Sanitary Inspector, and his Report, appended at the end of my Report, speaks for itself.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

This question does not arise in this Area. There are few factory chimneys and smoke nuisance is non-existent.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

The Council have recently declared certain trades to be offensive, and will proceed in due course to secure bye-laws to regulate the various trades.

HOUSING.

I.—GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS.

There are, in the Area, several blocks of houses which were scheduled for demolition some time before the war. These houses are still tenanted by the poorer working classes. The properties are very congested and the air space surrounding them limited, some of them having back yards 6ft. wide by 10ft. long, with ash closets and in some cases, food cupboards. It would appear that the houses built under the Municipal Scheme are too highly rented for that class of tenant who are paying from 3/6 weekly. Apart from these blocks the general housing conditions of the town are fairly good.

The Borough suffers from the fact that it is surrounded by Skirbeck and Skirbeck Quarter and building land is consequently not so easily obtainable as is the case in other towns. There is a shortage of houses to meet the demand of the type of tenant mentioned above.

The Council have erected 14 houses out of a batch of 20 tendered for during 1925. Further schemes are in hand and it is hoped to build houses with moderate rentals to meet the need of houses for the poorer classes of tenants.

II.—OVERCROWDING.

The number of persons per house in the Borough is, approximately, 4. The overcrowding is limited to the smaller type of house, such as those I have mentioned. The number of houses with two families is approximately eighty-eight.

Several cases of overcrowding have come to my notice and the conditions have been remedied. Three of the most marked cases I might mention :—

- 1.—House with two bedrooms and two living rooms tenanted by husband and wife and two children ; one bedroom, 11ft. by 11ft., sub-let to husband, wife and four children and used as living room and bedroom.
- 2.—House of two rooms occupied by tenant and his housekeeper ; room sub-let to husband, wife and two children, one a boy of twelve.
- 3.—House of two bedrooms and one living room occupied by tenant and his housekeeper, sub-tenant and wife and two children and female lodger with two children.

III.—FITNESS OF HOUSES.

1. (a) General standard of housing is as already mentioned.
(b) Defects found are : choked drains, probably due to too small gradient ; damp walls, etc.
- 2.—Action taken as regards unfit houses : owner is communicated with by letter and if nothing is done the case is reported to the Sanitary Committee and statutory notices under the Public Health Act are issued.
- 3.—Difficulties found in remedying unfitness : owing to the small type of house in which the defects mainly occur the landlord usually protests that the rent is too low and that alterations made cost more than the rent paid him, that, however, is no concern of the health officials, and houses must be kept in good order. Much more could be done by a better co-operation between landlord and tenant.

IV.—UNHEALTHY AREAS.

No complaints have been received or representations made as to unhealthy areas.

V.—Bye laws are in force as to tents and vans, and no alteration is required at the present moment.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1925.

New Dwelling Houses	10
New Dwelling Houses as part of Municipal Housing Scheme. Completed	14
In Course of erection	6

Alterations and additions to existing houses	9
Alterations and additions to Business Premises	20
New Factories and Workshops	1
Other New Buildings	16
No. of Plans of Dwelling Houses passed during 1925	9

1.—*Unfit Dwelling Houses.*

Inspection :

(1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	347
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1920	17
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	nil
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	253

2.—*Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices.*

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	214
---	-----

3.—*Action under Statutory Powers.*

A.—Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c. Act, 1919.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.....	nil
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit :	
(a) by owners	nil
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	nil
(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	nil

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	46
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied :	
(a) by owners	214
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	—

C.—Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing Town Planning, &c. Act, 1909.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	1
(2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	1
(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the dwelling houses having been rendered fit	nil
(4) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	nil
(5) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	nil

April, 1925.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

There are 19 dairies in the Borough with approximately 110 milch cows, at the time of inspection the cows were housed under fairly good conditions. Several minor alterations, as for example, increased light and ventilation, have been obtained, and only in one case was the cowshed unsuitable for wholesome milk production.

No samples have been taken for analysis of dirt and no complaints have been received that milk is dirty.

There are 35 retail purveyors of milk in the Borough on the register and nine shops from which milk is sold.

The cowsheds are periodically inspected and the time of inspection arranged to synchronise with milking time so that observations of personal cleanliness amongst milkers may be taken. There is room for a great deal of improvement in the cleanliness of cows udders and milkers' hands. No end of advice makes but little impression. It will be a great step towards cleanliness when the dairy farmer realises it is even more important to "groom" his cows than his horses.

1.—Action taken as to tuberculous milk and cattle.

The Sanitary Committee were of the opinion that they could effectively deal with that part of the Milk and Dairies Consolidation Act, 1915, but an application for the necessary Authority under Secs. 3 and 4 was refused and this in spite of the Corporation being an Authority under the Contagious Diseases of Animals Acts and Sale of Food and Drugs Acts. The Holland County Council had also expressed itself as being agreeable to such a course being taken.

2.—No applications have been received for licences under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1923.

3.—No person has been refused registration as a retailer and no registration has been revoked.

No samples of milk have been taken for bacteriological examination.

MEAT INSPECTION.

The Sanitary Inspector is a qualified meat inspector, holding the certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute. He was appointed the officer under the Authority to receive notices of slaughter under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924. His report, as seen later on, shows there are 22 slaughterhouses in the Borough, and during 1925 he examined 2887 carcasses of meat as follows :—

Beef	.....	.....	.....	.....	699
Pork	.....	.....	.....	.....	1277
Mutton	.....	.....	.....	.....	911

The majority of the examinations took place during the process of dressing or immediately thereafter.

Most of the slaughterhouses have regular times of killing, but in addition, the Inspector received 442 irregular notices.

Unsound meat is removed by the owner to manure works and fat extractors from whence there is no edible fat sold, the Sanitary Inspector being assured it has been thus disposed of.

As to marking, there has been no application to the Council by any butcher for this to be done.

The Committee were of the opinion, when the Order came into force, that the question should be left over until such an application was received.

II.—STALLHOLDERS.

There are three regular stallholders for the sale of meat in the Market Place. These have the back, sides, and top of their stalls covered according to law but, as the front of the stall is open and right on the public street one is doubtful as to the efficacy of the Order. One stallholder was induced to "line" his cover with a washable material but the others held to the strict letter of the law that their stalls were covered.

SHOP FRONTS.—The majority of butchers and provision perveyors keep their shop windows shut, but there are others who persist in having them open. The onus lies with the Council to prove that covering is insufficient and such proof must be conclusive before incurring expenses in court.

III.—PUBLIC SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

There is no public slaughterhouse in the town. An abattoir would prove of great benefit to the town. Many of the 22 slaughterhouses are situated in crowded areas and it would greatly add to the salubrity of the said areas if the slaughterhouses could be abolished.

In addition the work of the Meat Inspector would be very much lightened.

Slaughterhouses in use in the Area :—

		In 1920.	In Jan., 1925.	In Dec., 1925.
Registered .....	.....	22	22	22
Licensed .....	.....	nil	nil	nil
Total		22	22	22

OTHER FOODS.

There are 37 bakehouses in the town and all are kept in fair order. Many of the bakehouses still have the old ovens and consequently are much more difficult to keep clean than the modern steam oven.

There is now one place where tripe dressing and cow heel boiling is carried on. This has had the effect of concentrating the manufacture of this food product and now only a few butchers clean and boil their own tripe. No serious nuisance has arisen in any premises under this heading.

No case of food poisoning has come under my notice.

I append the Report of the Borough Analyst for 1925 and the table of samples taken.

BOROUGH OF BOSTON.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

Report of the Public Analyst appointed for the Borough of Boston upon the Articles Analysed by him under the above Acts during the year ending the 31st December, 1925.

Nature of Sample.	No. Examined.	Genuine.	Remarks on Genuine Samples	No. adulterated.	Reference No.	Nature of Adulteration
Milk	37	33	No preservatives	4	42	7.33% deficient in fat
					44	7.33% " "
					46	8.66% " "
					47	8.33% " "
Butter	13	12	No preservatives	1	93	1.32% excess of water
Sausages	9	9	9 Informal	0		
			6 contained Boric Acid :—			
			7.7 grs. Boric Acid per lb.			
			3.36 " " "			
			6.72 " " "			
			3.36 " " "			
			9.10 " " "			
			4.55 " " "			
Brandy	9	9	9 Informal	0		
Beef Tea Cubes	5	5	5 " "	0		
Totals	73	68		5		

Royal Institute of Public Health,
37, Russell Square, London, W.C.1.
1st January, 1926.

WILLIAM R. SMITH,
Public Analyst.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

The following is a list of samples taken under the Sale of Foods and Drugs Acts :—

Milk	.....	.....	.....	.....	37
Sausages	.....	.....	.....	.....	9
Butter	.....	.....	.....	.....	13
Brandy	.....	.....	.....	.....	9
Beef Tea Cubes	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
					—
					73
					—

The beef tea cubes were sent from a batch voluntarily surrendered as unfit, for the purpose of ascertaining the composition which the Analyst proved to be evaporated Meat Extract (kind of meat not easily ascertained), salt, cretin, and cretinine.

Of the Milk samples 4 were adulterated and prosecutions successfully instituted. 10.81 per cent. adulterated as compared with 19.2 in 1924, and 27.3 in 1923, and 4.4 in 1922.

One sample of Butter had an excess of water and a warning was sent to the vendor.

The remainder of the samples were proved to be genuine.

Article Sampled	No.	Genuine	Adulterated		Prosecutions		Convictions	
			Fat Deficy	Added Water	Fat Deficy	Added Water	Fat Deficy	Added Water
Milk	37	34	3		3		3	
Butter	13	12	warning issued					
Sausages	9	9						
Brandy	9	9						
Beef Tea Cubes	5	5						
	73	69	3		3		3	

BOROUGH OF BOSTON.

Report for the year ended 31st December, 1925.

1.—Milk ; and Cream not sold as Preserved Creamm.

	(a) Number of Samples examined for the presence of a preservative	(b) Number in which a Preservative was reported to be present
MILK	37	Nil
CREAM	Nil	Nil

Nature of Preservative in each case in Column (b) and action taken under the Regulations in regard to it

2.—*Cream sold as Preserved Cream.*

- (a) Instances in which Samples have been submitted for Analysis to ascertain if the statements on the label as to Preservatives were correct.

(i) Correct statements made	.....	.....	.....	Nil
(ii) Statements incorrect	.....	.....	.....	Nil
				Nil

- (b) Determinations made of Milk Fat in Cream sold as Preserved Cream.

(i) Above 35 per cent.	.....	.....	.....	.....
(ii) Below 35 per cent.	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total	.....	.....	.....	Nil

- (c) Instances where (apart from Analysis) the requirements as to labelling or declaration of Preserved Cream in Article V. (1) and the proviso in Article V. (2) of the Regulations have not been observed.

- (d) Particulars of each case in which the Regulations have not been complied with, and action taken.

3.—*Thickening substances.*

Any evidence of their addition to Cream or to Preserved Cream.
Action taken were found Nil

4.—*Other observations, if any.*

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During 1923-24 the incidence of scarlet fever was considerably above the average. The large majority of cases were of a very mild type and the spread of the infection was no doubt due to this fact. Many cases were of an ambulatory type and infection was propagated before the disease was diagnosed.

During 1925 measles and whooping cough have been very prevalent both in children and adults. Both complaints have been of a fairly severe type and pulmonary complications numerous. This, in the case of measles, is due to the fact that measles is looked upon as a slight complaint and mothers have no idea that it is a complaint liable to cause death. Neither diseases are notifiable but the health visitor, in her capacity as School Nurse, has done good work in following up many cases and giving the necessary advice.

Cases of diphtheria have been comparatively few in number, and the same remark applies to encephalitis lethargica.

Return cases, especially in the case of scarlet fever, have been few in number and are almost a negligible quantity.

Pneumonia is a notifiable disease but there have been very few notifications.

Bacteriological specimens are sent to the clinical research and every encouragement is given to local practitioners to send specimens as the necessity arises. Close on a hundred specimens were sent during 1925. The Schuck and Dick Tests have been not used up to the present, but I hope to start the use of scarlet fever anti-toxin in the near future.

No primary vaccinations or re-vaccinations have been performed by me under the Public Health (Small-Pox Prevention) Regulations, 1917. As infectious cases occur, premises are promptly disinfected by the Sanitary Inspector, and removal to Isolation Hospital recommended in cases where proper isolation cannot be carried out at home.

Notifiable Diseases during 1925.

Disease.	Total Cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths.
Small-Pox	Nil	Nil	Nil
Scarlet Fever	52	29	2
Diphtheria	4	3	1
Enteric Fever	1	1	Nil
Puerperal Fever	Nil	Nil	Nil
Pneumonia	9	Nil	Nil
Erysipelas	7	Nil	Nil
Chicken-Pox	83	Nil	Nil
Encephalitis Lethargica	Nil		

Analysis of infections under the following age groups :—

	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria
Under 1	Nil	
1	Nil	
2	Nil	
3	7	
4	9	
5	6	1
10	18	2
15	5	
20	2	
35	4	1
45	1	
65	Nil	
Total	52	4

The case rate of infectious diseases per 1,000 living was as follows:—

Scarlet Fever	3.2
Diphtheria .....	.24
Enteric .....	.05
Erysipelas .....	.43

Tuberculosis.

New cases and mortality during the year 1925.

Age Period.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0								
1			1					
5	1							1
10	2	3	1					
15	2	3	3			1	1	2
20		2	1	1		1	1	
25		1		2	1	4		
35	6	2				4		
45	3	2		1	2	2	1	
55	3	1	2		3	1		
65	1			1		1		
Total	18	14	8	5	6	14	3	3

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

One case was dealt with under these Regulations. The man was found not to be infectious and sputum test was negative.

Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62.

The Council has now powers under this Section to remove tubercular cases to hospital where necessity arises.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Medical Superintendent—Dr. D. C. Robertson.

Nurse in Charge—Miss Cowper.

Assistant Nurses—Miss Davey and Miss Black.

CHILD WELFARE.

During the year under review the headquarters of the Centre have been moved from their former premises in High Street. Rooms have been rented from the authorities responsible for the Day Nursery. This arrangement, although satisfactory, is in no way ideal and the rooms are uncomfortably crowded at times. I still hope that I shall be able to get premises devoted to welfare work and thus ensure sufficient accommodation for any further increase in attendances.

An important change has been made in that the Centre is entirely under the control of the Medical Officer of Health. A separate committee of the Council has been instituted with three co-opted members.

The Welfare Centre meets two afternoons a week and the Medical Officer attends on both days from 2 to 4 p.m. All babies attending are seen by the Medical Officer once every four weeks and oftener as required.

The Health Visitor has assumed charge under the Medical Officer. This, in my opinion, is a satisfactory arrangement and creates a better liaison between the Health Visitor work and the work of the Welfare Centre. Attendances have been well maintained and there is every sign that the numbers will increase. An arrangement has been made whereby the Holland County Council may send mothers and babies from the Rural District. One day is specially assigned to them and the County Medical Officer has very kindly allowed a County Health Visitor to assist on that day.

I am pleased to say that the arrangement works very well and the relations between the two staffs are very cordial.

Dried milk has been supplied at cost price. This is not supplied unless the mothers bring up their babies to the Welfare Centre and careful supervision is exercised so that no abuse may arise. The supplying of dried milk has proved a great boon to many poor people and, in many cases, meant babies being properly fed owing to the lower cost of purchase.

Advice has been given to mothers as to feeding, etc. No ailments have been treated and mothers are advised to see their own doctors in cases of sickness.

I should like to thank the staff for the splendid work they have done in the past and it is largely through them that the work has prospered so much.

EXPECTANT MOTHERS.

The Health Visitor, as will be seen from the following Report, has visited a considerable number of expectant mothers. In addition, the midwife working under the Local Authority has visited and reported on any cases she may have attended.

Expectant mothers do not, up to the present, attend at the Welfare Centre.

I hope, however, when larger premises can be obtained, to have a regular clinic for expectant mothers where advice may be given and examinations may be made,

HEALTH VISITING.

The Health Visitor continues to carry out her duties as formerly. All newly-born babies are promptly visited and the report below shows the number of attendances up to five years of age.

No cases of puerperal fever were notified during the year.

No cases of ophthalmia neonatorum were notified during the year. The Health Visitor reported three cases which were successfully dealt with.

Midwife's Report for 1925.

	Boston	Rural	Total
Number of cases attended	34	5	39
Cases attended where a doctor was also in attendance	6	—	6
			—
			45
Ante-natal Visits paid.....	39	12	51
Visits paid to patients	600	64	664
Ante-natal Examination of ex- pectant mothers	4	2	6

Boston Health Visitor's Report for 1925.

There is very little improvement in the houses of the courts and lanes, and much overcrowding in these particular places.

Houses with two families and over at time of visits	88
Cases recommended for free milk through Welfare Centre by Nurse and Health Visitor	64
Visits to expectant mothers	91
Notified stillborn or died at birth	14
Eyes—Ophthalmia Neonatorum or discharge	3
Deformed cases notified	3
Illegitimate cases notified	13
Died in first year	16
Families with children left the Town born in 1925	15
Notifications received of families removed into Boston	20
Visits paid—First in 1925	348
„ „ Second in 1925	286
„ „ Third and over	430
Total	1,064

Visits paid to children born in the following years :—

(1921) 108 (1922) 163 (1923) 280 (1924) 551 Total 1,102

Health Visitor	1
C.M.B. Midwife	1 (Municipal)
Uncertified Midwives	28

Infant Welfare Centre Report for 1925.

Attendances at the Centre—Boston	1334
Boston Rural	662
Total	2996
Babies seen by Doctor—Boston	427
Boston Rural	243
New babies or small children attending	
Boston	186
Boston Rural	71
Free Milk supplied—Boston.....	96
Boston Rural.....	9

All mothers are supplied with dried milk at cost price. In certain cases dried milk and virol have been supplied free where the home conditions are bad.

Nursing mothers have also been supplied with fresh milk where circumstances have required.

The number of new babies attending was nearly double that of last year.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1925, for the Borough of Boston, on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers prosecuted. (4)
Factories	7	No statutory notices issued, the work being done on re- ceipt of a letter making the necessary request.	
(Including Factory Laundries)			
Workshops	13		
(Including Workshop Laundries)			
Workplaces			
(Other than Outworkers' re- mises)			
Total	20		

2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of offences in respect to which Prosecutions were instituted (5)
	Found. (2)	Re-medied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspect'r (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts*</i>				
Want of cleanliness	10	10		
Want of ventilation	1	1		
Overcrowding	Nil			
Want of drainage of floors	Nil			
Other nuisances	27	27		
Sanitary accommodation } insufficient	2	1		
} unsuitable or defective	1	1		
} not separate for sexes				
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101)				
Other offences				
(Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories & Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921.)				
Total	41	40		

*Including those specified in Sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

Outwork in Unwholesome Premises, Section 108.

Nature of Work. (1)	Instances. (2)	Notices served. (3)	Prosecutions. (4)
Wearing Apparel—			
Making, &c.			
Cleaning and washing			
Household linen			
Lace, lace curtains and nets			
Curtains and furniture hangings			
Furniture and upholstery			
Electro-plate			
File making			
Brass and brass articles			
Fur pulling			
Cables and chains			
Anchors and Grapnels			
Cart gear			
Locks, latches and keys			
Umbrellas, &c.			
Artificial flowers			
Nets, other than wire nets			
Tents			
Sacks			
Racquet and tennis balls			
Paper, etc., boxes, paper bags			
Brush making			
Pea picking			
Feather sorting			
Carding, &c., of buttons, &c.			
Stuffed toys			
Basket making			
Chocolates and sweetmeats			
Cosaques, Christmas crackers, Christmas stocking, &c.			
Textile weaving			
Total			

NIL

4. Registered Workshops.

Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at end of the year.		Number
1		2
Important classes of workshops such as workshop bakehouses may be enumerated here.	Bakers	40
	Milliners and Dressmakers	21
	Saddlers	4
	Boot and Shoemakers	12
	Blacksmiths	6
	Plumbers and Painters	9
	Tailors	14
	Various	64
Total number of Workshops on Register		170

3.—HOME WORK

OUTWORKERS' LISTS SECTION 107.										OUTWORKER IN UNWHOLESOME PREMISES SECTION 108.			OUTWORK IN INFECTED PREMISES SECTION 109, 110.		
Nature of Work. *	Lists received from Employers.						Notices served on Occupiers as to keeping or sending Lists	Prosecutions		Instances.	Notices served.	Prosecutions.	Instances.	Order made sec. 110	Prosecutions sections 109, 110
	Sending twice in a year.			Sending once in a year.				Failing to keep or permit inspection of Lists.	Failing to send Lists.						
	Lists†	Outworkers †	Workmen	Lists	Contractors	Workmen									
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Wearing Apparel—															
1 Making, &c.															
2 Cleaning and washing	2		3												
Household linen															
Lace, lace curtains and nets															
Curtains and furniture hangings															
Furniture and upholstery.....															
Electro-plate															
File making															
Brass and brass articles															
Fur pulling															
Cables and chains															
Anchors and Grapnels															
Cart gear															
Locks, latches and keys															
Umbrellas, &c.															
Artificial flowers															
Nets, other than wire nets															
Tents															
Sacks															
Racquet and tennis balls															
Paper, etc., boxes, paper bags															
Brush making															
Pea picking	3			3		38									
Feather sorting															
Carding, &c., of buttons, &c.															
Stuffed toys															
Basket making															
Chocolates and sweetmeats															
Cosaques, Christmas crackers, Christmas stocking, &c.															
Textile weaving															
Total				3											

*If an occupier gives out work of more than one of the classes specified in column 1, and subdivides his list in such a way as to show the number of workers in each class of work, the list should be included among those in column 2 (or 5 as the case may be) against the principal class *only*, but the outworkers should be assigned in columns 3 and 4 (or 5 and 7) into their respective classes. A footnote should be added to show that this has been done.

†The figures required in columns 2, 3 & 4 are the *total* number of the lists received from those employers who comply strictly with the statutory duty of sending *two* lists each year, and of the entries of names of outworkers in those lists. The entries in column 2 must necessarily be *even* numbers, as there will be two lists for each employer—in some previous returns odd numbers have been inserted. The figures in columns 3 and 4 will usually be (approximately) double the number of individual outworkers whose names are given, since in the February and August lists of the same employer the same outworker's name will often be repeated.

(Signature) D. C. ROBERTSON, Medical Officer of Health.

5. Other Matters.

CLASS 1	Number 2
Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories :—	
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 133, 1901)	
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Acts (s. 5, 1901)	4
Notified by H.M. Inspector Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector	4
Other	
Underground Bakehouses (s. 101) in use at the end of the year	

Sanitary Inspectors' Report for year ending 1925.

INSPECTIONS.

Dwelling, ordinary	864
Re-inspections	291
Living Vans	42
Slaughter Houses.....	624
Butchers' Shops and Foodstores	30
Fried Fish Shops	48
Bakehouses	38
Factories and Workshops	20
Works in progress	50
Infectious Disease	68
Cowsheds and Milkshops.....	25
Complaints investigated	148
Water Samples taken	2

OFFICE WORK.

Letters written	305
Circulars	31
Informal Notices	21
Statutory Notices	46
Certificates issued :	
Infectious Disease	200
Unsound Meat	18
„ Fish	4
Others	1

PREMISES DISINFECTED.

For Scarlet Fever.....	48
Other Infectious Disease.....	12
Tuberculosis	8

Nuisances reported and Repairs carried out.

Drains choked	91
„ defective	16
„ untrapped	9
„ relaid	8
Sewers choked	6
Vent Shaft defective	1
Accumulations removed.....	9
Closets :	
Ash Closets defective	81
„ „ drains choked	29
„ „ abolished	60
„ „ repaired	17
Privy Vaults abolished	7
Slop Closets choked	15
„ „ Pan defective	2
New Slop Closets provided	38
Water Closets choked	1
„ „ Pan defective	1
New Water Closets provided	29
Insufficient Closet accommodation	5
Inspection Chamber defective	1
„ „ „ foul	1
Yard, paving defective	37
Walls damp	7
„ Plastering defective	17
„ Dirty	3
„ Defective	2
Kitcheners and Flues defective.....	6
Floors defective	10
Roofs „	12
Eaves, Guttering defective	7
Staircase, defective	3
Doors, defective	1
R.W. Downspout, defective	3
Dirty Houses	8
Insanitary Brick Bins abolished	11
Portable Dust Bins provided	19
Manure Bins without a cover	8
Cesspools abolished	3
Overcrowding	3
Swine kept so as to be, etc.	2
Chickens, do.	3
Water supply service pipes defective	5
Other Nuisances	16

 464

Nuisances not abated	45
----------------------------	----

Nuisances from Premises other than Dwellings.

Bakehouses	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	13
Slaughterhouses	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12
Butchers' Workshops	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8
Grocers' Shops	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Factory	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Poulterer	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Fried Fish Shop	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Gut Scraper's Shop	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3

 41

CONVERSIONS.

The work of conversion of ash closets and privy vaults has been dealt with slowly during the year, personally I should like to see many more of these closets abolished and wash down closets substituted, and I feel sure that the cost of household scavenging would be very much reduced, to say nothing of the enhanced benefits which would accrue from the objectionable method of " tipping " in existence at present.

However, I am very pleased to report as under :—

Vaults abolished	.....	.....	.....	.....	7
Ash Closets abolished	.....	.....	.....	.....	60
					<hr/> 67
Slop Closets provided	.....	.....	.....	.....	38
Water Closets provided	.....	.....	.....	.....	29
					<hr/> 67
Additional S.C. provided	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Additional W.C. provided	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
					<hr/> 4

Approximate number of conveniences in the Borough :—

Vaults	.....	.....	.....	.....	479
Ash Closets	.....	.....	.....	.....	1692
Slop Closets	.....	.....	.....	.....	1193
Water Closets	.....	.....	.....	.....	918

MEAT INSPECTION.

Coming to the work of Meat Inspection, you will remember that this was greatly increased by the Order which came into operation last April, and I respectfully wish to assure you that the expectations have been quite fulfilled.

Owing to the hours of slaughter being in the majority of cases during the afternoon and evening I have to put in several hours weekly over what is looked upon as office hours to do the work anything like efficiently, and in addition, there are two regular notices for slaughter on Sundays, as it is, I estimate that I examine approximately 65 per cent. of the stock killed in the Town.

I have set out below the quantity of meat destroyed since last April, and I am pleased to be able to report that in only two cases have I had my decision challenged or queried, and in each case I suggested the parties should call in a veterinary which was done and he confirmed my decision.

There are 23 registered slaughterhouses in the Town and approximately 40 butchers, and I have made 624 visits to the slaughterhouses and examined 2,887 carcasses as set out below, that these visits have not been in vain will be seen from the amount of Meat destroyed.

CARCASSES EXAMINED.

Beef	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	699
Mutton	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	911
Pork	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1277
						<hr/> 2887 <hr/>

MEAT DESTROYED.

	Beef.	Mutton.	Pork.	Veal	Total.
Carcases (whole with offal)	7	4	14	1	26
Parts in weight	1208lbs.				1208
Lungs	9	—	20	—	29
Livers	11	—	26	—	37
Heads	4	—	3	—	7
Tongues	3	—	—	—	3

OTHER FOODS DESTROYED.

Hams—24lbs.
Fish—3,151lbs.
Beef Tea Cubes—35lbs.

J. H. EVANS,
Sanitary Inspector,

BOSTON BOROUGH POLICE.

The following are particulars of persons lodging in the Common Lodging Houses in the Borough of Boston during the year ending 31st December, 1925.

Registered No. and Situation.	Name of Keeper	Males.	Females	Children	Total
No. 8, Woodyard	James Bontoft	3232	643	15	3890

Chief Constable's Office,
Municipal Buildings,
Boston.
7th January, 1926.

LEONARD JOHNSON,
Chief Constable.

